

The original Acts and amendments were consolidated in the statutes of 1892 and were henceforth known as the Act of 1892 (3).

In 1900, Professor James Mavor, of the University of Toronto, presented to the Assembly an exhaustive report on Workmen's Compensation, which he had been asked to prepare (4). This report dealt at length with the British Workmen's Compensation Act of 1897 and also with accident insurance in Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia. It is descriptive mainly, but finds in general that the German system of mutual liability is preferable to the English method where the liability is left upon the individual employer. No definite recommendations were made.

In 1893 an amendment was passed definitely excluding workmen in "husbandry, gardening or fruit-growing" from the operation of the Act (5).

Bills intended to amend the Act were introduced in the years 1907, 1909 and 1910, but voted down.

On June 30, 1910, a step was taken destined to have an important bearing upon the workmen's compensation movement in Canada. The Ontario Government appointed a commission of one, Sir William Meredith, to investigate the matter. The commission was set to do three things—to investigate Acts in operation in other countries, to make recommendations regarding the application of such legislation to Ontario, and to draft a bill for presentation to the Legislature. The commission made an interim report in 1912, another in 1913, and its final report in 1914, in which year the new Act was adopted. This Act is the first legislation introduced in Canada based upon the German system of mutual liability on the part of certain groups of employers. With certain amendments added in 1915, 1916 and 1917, the Act is considered in detail in section 2 of this chapter.

QUEBEC.

The Proceedings of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada and Quebec contain no reference to our subject until we reach the year 1907. In that year an Act was passed authorizing the organization of a commission to study the remedies most appropriate to labor accidents (6). As a result of this report an Act was passed in 1909 which has since been in force (7). Attempts

(3) Statutes of Ontario, 55 Vict., c. 30.

(4) Sessional Papers, Ont., 1900, No. 48.

(5) 56 Vict., c. 26.

(6) 7 Edw. VII., c. 5.

(7) Statutes Quebec, 9 Edw. VII., c. 66.